

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-6 remain under consideration in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled and 7-21 are withdrawn as being directed to nonelected subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 2. Claims 1 and 3-6 also have been amended to eliminate the reference numerals that were in the original claims. Reference numerals are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the amendment to eliminate the reference numerals is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Replacement sheets for FIGS. 2, 4, 5 and 13 have been presented to address the drawing objections and the first objection to an informality in the specification.

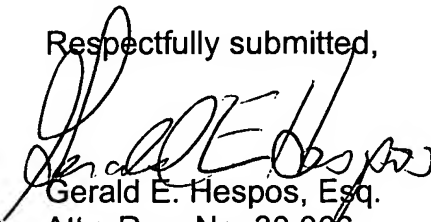
The Examiner raised formal objections to paragraph 52 and 53. The specification has been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,989,075 to Hsiao et al. However, claims 2-6 were identified as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if amended or rewritten into independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims.

Allowable claim 2 had depended directly from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1, and hence should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. E. Hespos", is written over the printed name.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please delete original FIGS. 2, 4, 5 and 13 and substitute the replacement sheets attached hereto.